

Members of the Joint Subcommittee:

EXHIBIT 17
DATE 1/9/07
HB 2

For the record, my name is Colette Gray. I reside at # 8 Collins Road, Ulm, Montana. I am employed as a Community Advocate at Opportunities, Inc. in Great Falls.

In that capacity I have contact on a daily basis with low-income people and share their concerns with pre-1976 mobile homes. At least weekly I receive calls from low income and elderly people whose "home" is a mobile home that is experiencing plumbing, electrical or weatherization related problems. These people call me as their last resort and often their introduction begins with..."I have tried everywhere and no one is willing to help me with my problem because I live in an old mobile home."

I am providing written testimony for three residents in one of our trailer courts in Great Falls that contains a high number of older mobile homes. One of the ladies has also sent a photo collage that shows the collapsing ceiling and other pitfalls that a group of friends spent three months repairing as volunteers.

The people who live in this court have scrimped and saved to afford minor repairs that are no more than patches that hold them together for the time being.

The mobile home replacement program would be the first step in moving these people into affordable, safe, energy efficient housing. A vote to approve this program would help "the last and the least".

Thank you,



Colette Gray, Community Advocate
January 9, 2007